

A color distance from the central pixel] greater than or equal to a predetermined threshold, [with respect to] for a predetermined number of pixels at [the] a beginning and latter parts [among] of the sorted pixels.

REMARKS

General remarks.

Claims 1-50 are all the claims pending in the application.

The above changes have been made to more clearly claim the invention. Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner to enter these amendments prior to considering this application on its merits.

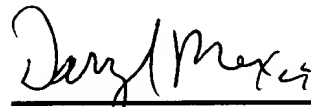
Conclusion

If the Examiner feels that the disposition of the application could be expedited by speaking with Applicants' representative, the Examiner is respectfully invited to **call the undersigned attorney** at the number shown below.

PATENT APPLICATION
09/497,520 (Q53233)

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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